

May 10, 2000

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD.**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Torrance Cable Television Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 7:08 p.m. in the meeting room at the Torrance Community Television Center.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners: Cahill, Craft, Kaur, Mikulicich (arrival time 7:15 p.m.), Stadler (arrival time 7:13 p.m.) and Acting Chair Tsao

**Absent:** Chair Haussmann (excused)

**Also Present:** Michael D. Smith, Cable Television Administrator  
Paul Fornelli, Coordinator  
Mary, Secretary

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Led by Commissioner Kaur

**4. MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Craft moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaur, carried with an aye vote.*

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Kaur moved to accept the minutes for the April 12, 2000 meeting. This motion seconded by Commissioner Craft. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Cahill, abstain; Commissioner Kaur, Craft and Vice Chair Tsao approved.*

**6. SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

Community Matters – NONE

a) Committee Reports

**i) Producer Incentive Committee**

Commissioner Kaur reported a production dealing with Social Services is being planned with Tina Pederson, who has been shooting footage on the subject. The dates for future shoots will be scheduled soon. Commissioner Kaur explained the workings of the Producer Incentive Committee to newly appointed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Craft moved to accept the Producer Incentive report. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Cahill, carried with an aye vote.*

**ii) Eighth Annual TCTV Video Awards**

Commissioner Craft reported a meeting was scheduled at the close of the Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Kaur moved to accept the Eight Annual TCTV Video Awards Committee report. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Cahill, carried with an aye vote.*

**iii) Franchise Renewal - NONE**

**iv) Operating Policies and Procedures– NONE**

**c) Report of Community Television Center – March, 2000**

Coordinator Fornelli gave a brief summary of the facility activities for the month of April, 2000. It was reported that the Interns, working with a local Girl Scout troop completed a video to earn their merit badge. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Craft moved to accept the Report of Community Television report. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaur, carried with an aye vote.*

**d) Report of Legislative and Cable Related Activities –February, 2000**

Administrator Smith reported that Time Warner violated an FCC rule when they ceased carriage of ABC stations on its cable systems in several markets during the “sweeps” rating period. The retransmission consent rules specifically state that cable operators cannot remove a broadcaster from the cable system during this time. It was reported that Time Warner will be offering a credit of \$1.00 to each of their subscribers, and to provide for FREE, one month of HBO Family. If the subscriber currently has HBO Family, Time Warner will give Starz as an alternative.

Administrator Smith reported that KABC has been offering a voucher with a \$99.00 rebate on a dish, and a \$99.00 rebate on installation if you take DirecTV.

Administrator Smith reported that Credit Suisse First Boston analyst Laura Martin predicted the demise of the DBS (Direct Broadcast Satellite) business due to cable services rolling out new service packages and bundles.

Administrator Smith reported that panelists at an NCTA show session said that cable operators will likely take away analog bandwidths as the need for digital broadband services increases over time.

Administrator Smith reported that Time Warner Chairman Jerry Levin has expressed his dissatisfaction with the retransmission consent rules, saying that the broadcasters are unfairly utilizing that rule to take advantage of the cable operators.

Administrator Smith reported that AT & T should be making an announcement soon regarding their current limit on 10-minute streaming of video, and are also pushing for a standard of MPEG technology for streaming on the Internet.

Administrator Smith reported that RCN (Residential Community Network) has reached four agreements in Northern California to overbuild the incumbent cable television provider. RCN has also announced their plans to enter the Southern California market as well. The City of Torrance and RCN have met. The City has issued an application for submitting a proposal (Request for Information) on their intent to offer services in this community. Their entrance would mean Torrance residents having a choice between another cable operator and telephone company. RCN provides bundled services (local telephone exchange, traditional cable T.V., and high speed Internet Service) for approximately \$109.00 per month.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Kaur moved to accept the Legislative and Cable Related Activities Report for April, 2000. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Mikulicich, carried with an aye vote.*

**e) Old Business**

**i) Status Report on the Time Warner Rebuild – April, 2000**

Administrator Smith reported there are only a few nodes remaining on the rebuild to be completed. (He provided a map to Commissioners Cahill and Stadler).

Administrator Smith stated that over the life of the franchise there has been occasional problems the CitiCHANNEL's. This is due in part because the signal comes from the Cable building, goes to the City of Gardena where Time Warner's headend is located, the is re-distributed on cable throughout the Torrance. Time Warner is in the process of installing a new fiber line from Gardena to Torrance that will improve the quality and reliability of our signals. This project is nearing completion.

Administrator Smith reported that three new complaints were received regarding the rebuild during this period, two of which were a result of the ABC issue.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Craft moved to accept the Status Report on the Time Warner Rebuild. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaur, carried with an aye vote.*

**f) New Business**

**Committee appointments: Future of Access**

Acting Chair Tsao appointed Commissioner Craft as the Chair of the Cable Television Franchise Renewal committee, and Commissioners Cahill and Stadler as committee members.

Acting Chair Tsao appointed Commissioner Mikulicich as the Chair of the Operating Policies and Procedures committee, and Commissioner Stadler as a committee member.

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Mikulicich made a motion to ratify these appointments. This motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaur, was supported with a unanimous aye vote.*

**12. ADDENDUM MATTERS - None**

**13. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- 13a. Administrator Smith welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board.
- 13b. Coordinator Fornelli welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board, and invited both to attend the National Conference for the Alliance for Community Media in Tucson, Arizona in mid-July.
- 13c. Commissioner Mikulicich welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board.
- 13d. Commissioner Mikulicich wished everybody a Happy Memorial Day.
- 13e. Commissioner Mikulicich reminded everybody to fill out his or her census forms. He announced that several TCTV Producers are among the enumerators in the Torrance area, and that he is one of the crew leaders.
- 13f. Commissioner Craft welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board.
- 13g. Commissioner Kaur welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board.
- 13h. Commissioner Kaur wished everybody a Happy Armed Forces Day, mentioning the nice job on the posters advertising the Parade.
- 13i. Commissioner Kaur announced that the Torrance Historical Society will be holding their annual meeting at The Depot Restaurant on June 3, 2000, at 1:00 p.m., and that she will be the speaker.
- 13j. Commissioner Iva Cahill introduced herself, reported she worked for the City of Torrance for 22 years, and is fairly familiar with the City. She stated her husband, who is also retired from the City of Torrance is also a Commissioner.
- 13k. Commissioner Jim Stadler, reported that he grew up in Torrance, and that he owned a moving and storage company for 24 years, and that he is now retired.
- 13l. Acting Chair Tsao welcomed Commissioners Cahill and Stadler to the TCTV Advisory Board.

CTAB

Amended, June 14, 2000

- 13m. Acting Chair Tsao invited everybody to the Ninth Annual International Business Exposition held on May 11, 2000, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott Hotel. There will be representatives from 27 companies.
- 13n. Acting Chair invited everybody to attend the Egyptian Trade Dedication at the Chamber of Commerce on May 17, 2000, at 3:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Acting Chair Tsao adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m., to reconvene on Wednesday, June 14, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Smith  
Cable Television Administrator

mt/MDS